**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY**

**Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science**

Minutes of Meeting 95-7

held

Wednesday, 6 December 1995, at 2:00 p.m. in H-769

Present: Dr. D.J. Taddeo (Chair); Mr. M. Ahmadi (Graduate Rep.); Dr. A.J. Al-Khalili; Dr. C. Bédard; Dr. A. Bulgak; Dr. J. Campanelli; Dr. M. El-Badry; Dr. D. Feldman; Dr. C. Giguère; Dr. K. Ha; Mr. A. Hanna (Graduate Rep.); Ms. L. Harris (Library); Dr. S. Hoa; Mr. D. Janssen; Dr. G. Joos; Ms. S. Kiruluta (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. C. Lam; Dr. V. Latinovic; Dr. H. McQueen; Dr. T. Radhakrishnan; Dr. A.S. Ramamurthy; Ms. M. Sabbag (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. T. Stathopoulos; Dr. C. Suen; Dr. L. Tao; Mr. T. Too (Registrar's Office); Dr. G. Turski (Secretary)

Visitors: Dr. M. Anvari (Commerce and Administration); Dr. G. Valaskakis and Ms. M. Yates (Arts & Science); Mr. L. Zack (Public Relations)

Regrets: Dr. J. Drolet; Dr. T. Krepec; Dr. H.F. Li; Dr. J. Lightstone

1. Adoption of Agenda

Two additional items were proposed for consideration at the meeting: a) clarification of the role and function of the Social Aspects of Engineering--response to recent criticisms of the Faculty's undergraduate curriculum; and b) Faculty's representation on Senate.

Motion 95-7-1 The agenda was unanimously adopted, as modified. (C. Lam, T. Stathopoulos)

2. Adoption of Minutes

Motion 95-7-2 The Minutes of Meeting 95-6 (20 October 1995) were unanimously approved. (G. Vatistas, C. Bédard)

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair asked all to observe a minute of silence in commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the tragedy at the École Polytechnique.

Dr. Taddeo welcomed Drs. Anvari and Valaskakis, the respective Deans of the Faculties of Commerce and Administration and Arts and Science, as well as Ms. M. Yates, Dr. Valaskakis's Assistant and Secretary of the Arts and Science Faculty Council. He explained that their presence ensued from an agreement among the academic Deans to reciprocally visit each other's Faculty (or School) Council meetings for information exchange purposes.

Dr. Taddeo expressed his appreciation to D. Janssen and the ECA for their very strong participation in the current CENTRAIDE campaign.

The External Advisory Board was successfully launched on November 21st, and the Dean thanked all involved for their contribution and participation. The event was very well attended and follow-up meetings of all of the Board's constitutive Working Groups will take place by the end of February 1996.

Dr. Taddeo reintroduced Dr. Valaskakis who went on to briefly summarize the present planning efforts in the Faculty of Arts and Science. Dr. Valaskakis explained that these efforts are subsumed within the process of a self-appraisal which the Faculty is currently undergoing. An important aspect of this process is the generation of a profile to be used in an impending search for the Faculty's next Dean.

In view of the pressing necessity to downsize and restructure many aspects of the University's activities, the Faculty of Arts and Science established a think tank with a mandate to examine the future of its many domains. The established body, chaired by Dr. D. Cheeke, has recently produced a substantial report which, in turn, will also inform the self-appraisal process as well as any ensuing restructuring of the Faculty. In response to a question about the issue, Dr. Valaskakis pointed to a range of parameters that will be used in the restructuring process; while some of these parameters pertain to the Faculty's original mandate as stipulated by the provincial government at the time of Concordia's formation, others will relate to demonstrated areas of excellence developed in research and teaching, department-specific programme development, as well as pressures for joint cooperation with other universities especially in areas where low demand makes funding of full-fledged independent programmes at each institution difficult to justify. In this context, Dr. Valaskakis pointed to Concordia's cooperation with McGill on the offerings in Geology. Furthermore, while strong possibilities exist for infra-Faculty joining of related programmes (or clusters of such) under the

auspices of single departments, the Dean also expressed her support for greater cooperation among all Faculties as well as joint academic appointments.

On Dr. Taddeo's invitation, Dr. Anvari gave a brief overview of the current situation of the Faculty of Commerce and Administration. The latter's most significant recent efforts have centered on a complete revamping of its undergraduate core curriculum. Subsequent to a very broad consultation with other universities, business communities, alumni, and human resources specialists, the Faculty will, as of September 1996, offer a curriculum that will feature a number of entirely new courses as well as greater latitude for students to attend courses given by the other Faculties.

The curricular offerings of the Executive MBA and Airline MBA programmes have also been reviewed and revised. In addition, in order to provide greater flexibility for its clientele, the Faculty of Commerce and Administration will begin next Fall to offer a number of courses during weekends. Responding to some specific questions about the Executive MBA programme, Dr. Anvari explained that establishing such programmes requires a prior identification of a strong market demand for them as well as considerable effort on the part of dedicated individuals who believe in them and strongly want them to succeed. In this context, the ordinary bureaucratic approach to academic administration will prove inadequate. The Dean also pointed to the growing need for the University to build better teaching classroom facilities that will support in particular new teleconferencing and multi-media technologies; this effort should be subject to a cooperative strategy on the part of all Faculties.

**CLOSED SESSION**

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

## OPEN SESSION

5. Graduate Slot Course--Department of Civil Engineering (ECFC Doc. 95-7-1)

Dr. Stathopoulos gave a brief overview of ECFC Doc. 95-7-1. He informed that the Faculty's Graduate Studies Committee has reviewed the proposal from the Department of Civil Engineering and, subsequent to minor modifications mutually agreed on, is recommending that Council approve the introduction of the slot course CIVI 690U--Fate of Contaminants in the Environment. As this course is to replace another in the Winter schedule, its approval will carry no resource implications.

Motion 95-7-4 That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science accept the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee that the course CIVI 690U--Fate of Contaminants in the Environment be offered as a slot course in the Winter semester 1996 (T. Stathopoulos, M. El-Badry)

Vote: Carried unanimously

6. Faculty Development Teaching Programme (ECFC Doc. 95-7-2)

Dr. Taddeo explained that ECFC Doc. 95-7-2 is being distributed to Council primarily for information purposes. The document outlines a number of measures the University intends to follow through to enhance the teaching performance of new faculty members at Concordia, in parallel to the enhancement of research by the already established Faculty Development Research Programme. The Dean remarked that as the proposed measures fall in line with those of similar nature and supported by the Faculty in the past, the document merits Council's support.

In response to Dr. Radakrishnan's question about the kind of expenses targeted for the $40,000 allocation mentioned in ECFC Doc. 95-7-2, Dr. Stathopoulos explained that the monies in question would cover costs of attending conferences, organization of information sessions, supplies, and the like. Dr. McQueen informed that sponsorship of lectures by outside experts in teaching is also intended by the programme, as is the organization for participants of retreats aiming to study in-depth specific pedagogical techniques and issues.

Motion 95-7-5 That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science support the initiatives proposed in ECFC Doc. 95-7-2 (S. Hoa, C. Bédard)

Vote: Carried unanimously

7. Elections in the Faculty (ECFC Doc.93-4-1; Doc. 94-4-2)

Dr. Taddeo introduced and welcomed Dr. O. Moselhi, Chair of the Faculty Elections Committee, as well as the committee's remaining regular members--Drs. Latinovic and Jaworski. The Dean informed that Dr. Moselhi's presence at Council was ensuing in the wake of the Elections Committee's decision to suspend the current elections in the Faculty--viz., for the selection of faculty representatives on the Search Advisory Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science--and also because that committee is constituted by Council and, as such, responsible to it.

Dr. Moselhi explained that soon after the Election Committee's tabulation of the results of the first round of the elections on 21 November 1995, he received from Dr. W. Knitter, President of CUFA, a letter which in his view--and subsequently the entire committee's as well--provided a general ruling to the effect that Associate Deans should be ineligible for being nominated for contested positions as well as voting in the Faculty's elections. (The said letter--marked as Reference #1--was distributed to all Council members.)

As the Elections Committee received input from the Secretary of Faculty Council which contradicted its position on the matter, the committee decided to seek further and more specific clarification from the President of CUFA (Reference #2). Dr. Knitter's reply--distributed to Council and marked as Reference #3--essentially reiterated the position stated in his earlier letter, this time explicitly affirming its applicability to the elections for faculty representatives on the Search Advisory Committee.

Dr. Moselhi indicated that the Elections Committee unanimously agreed with the view that the Associate Deans should be excluded from either voting on the composition of, or being nominated for any of the positions on, the Advisory Search Committee for a Dean of the Faculty and therefore presently recommends to Council that the election process be restarted *de novo* with the appropriate restrictions arising from this view.

In disagreeing with this position, Dr. Giguère provided a number of reasons for his opposition and incorporated them in the following proposed motion.

Motion 95-7-6

**Whereas** the constitution of search advisory committees lies totally within the purview of the Board of Governors

**Whereas** the Board of Governors has not yet put into place procedures for the election of faculty members to such committees

**Whereas** in the absence of such procedures it has been the practice for Senate and Councils to continue using their individual procedures governing such elections

**Whereas** the provisions of the Collective Agreement between the University and CUFA have no bearing whatsoever on such elections

**Whereas** the rules adopted by the Engineering and Computer Science Faculty Council governing such elections make no provisions as to the eligibility of individuals to stand for office or to vote

**Whereas** it has always been the practice of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science that all tenured faculty members and all faculty members filling tenure-track positions are eligible to be candidates for office and to vote in elections run under the authority of its Faculty Council

**Whereas** it is highly prejudicial to the fairness of the electoral process to alter established practice during the course of an election

**Be it resolved** that the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science instruct the Faculty Elections Committee to resume the process initiated for the election of faculty members to the Search Advisory Committee for a Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science (C. Giguère, G. Joos)

Dr. Moselhi responded that, notwithstanding past practices in the Faculty (which simply by virtue of being followed do not thus set precedents in the strict legal sense of the term), the overriding issue at hand is to determine a right and a wrong in the electoral principles and procedures once they have been put in question. In his view, the definition of faculty members as set out in the CUFA certification document (i.e., as members of the bargaining unit and therefore excluding such administrative office holders as Associate Deans) should prevail in the current debate and inform the judgement on individuals' eligibility to vote and accept nominations. Dr. Taddeo pointed out that the Board of Governors-approved eligibility of part-time faculty members to serve on search committees, outlined in ECFC Doc. 94-4-2, clearly did not support this position.

Dr. Suen stated that there is no reference whatsoever to Associate or Vice-Deans in the outline of the composition of the search committees for the various senior administration positions. To exclude such deans from participating in the electoral and search processes would be, in the university context, wholly undemocratic, since these individuals--belonging formally neither to the Senior Administration nor to the bargaining unit, CUFA--would be effectively disenfranchised.

Dr. McQueen expressed support for Dr. Moselhi's reiteration that Associate Deans are to be formally considered as part of the administration. Dr. Giguère insisted on the centrality of the point that neither CUFA nor the Collective Agreement can dictate the actions of the Board of Governors or a Faculty Council in setting up selection or advisory committees or determining the effective electoral processes. While expressing a willingness to discuss further this issue in the future, he maintained that to do so in the midst of an already started election would be entirely inappropriate.

In Dr. Stathopoulos's view, it is critical not to conflate membership in CUFA with the effective status of professors as faculty members. While it is clear and indisputable that Associate Deans are not members of CUFA, they do not thereby cease to be faculty members, the more so when they continue to perform their normal teaching and research duties. Dr. Stathopoulos further argued that stopping the election in mid-course is itself at least questionable and open to questions of a conflict of interest, since one of the members of the Election Committee is a candidate for membership on the Search Advisory Committee. Dr. Stathopoulos concluded his remarks by noting that: a) the context of establishing a search committee does not lend itself to an adversarial approach wherein two opposite parties (i.e., the administration, the faculty) negotiate a selection of a suitable candidate for a Dean; rather, faculty committee members follow their individual judgements and are chosen by their peers in virtue of having confidence voluntarily placed in them irrespective of their involvement in administration; and b) even assuming the questionable view of the applicability of the Collective Agreement in the current debate, in matters not clearly specified by this agreement--this clearly being so with the issue of eligibility and voting rights--any dispute cannot be settled by an appeal to only one of the sides party to it; rather, clarification must be sought and obtained from both parties (i.e., the Faculty Association and the University Administration) before any decisions and actions are taken. From this perspective the decision and action taken by the Election Committee is at least premature.

Dr. McQueen stated that it is important to achieve a balanced representation of the various constituencies on the search committees, avoid conflicts of interest, and the entrenchment of specific interests in the process of selecting a Dean, in light of which Associate Deans, as administrators, should be excluded from this process.

Vote: Sixteen in favour; three opposed; seven abstentions

8. <u>Other</u>

- Role of the Social Aspects of Engineering in the Engineering curriculum

Alluding to some disparaging remarks about Concordia's engineering education recently made on an electronic bulletin board by Professor E. Newman of the Department of Biology, Dr. McQueen distributed a rebuttal which he submitted to *Thursday Report* as well as additional documentation countering the view that the engineering education offered here is as lacking in broader perspectives as claimed by Professor Newman.

Dr. Taddeo informed Council members that he had contacted Dr. Lightstone about Dr. Newman's remarks, and that copies of this correspondence were also sent to Drs. Newman, Lowy, and Valaskakis.

- Faculty's representation on the University Senate

Noting the critical nature of the current debates within the University, the Dean emphasized the need for the Faculty to be fully and adequately represented at Concordia's various deliberative bodies. In this context, it is vital to nominate a replacement to Senate for a faculty member who recently submitted his resignation from it. With the suspension of the current elections in the Faculty, the selection of that replacement is still pending.

Motion 95-7-7

That the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science instruct the Faculty Elections Committee to resume the process initiated for the election of a faculty member representative to the University Senate and that at a future date Council will reconsider the issue of the eligibility of Associate Deans for various elections (C. Giguère, G. Joos)

Vote: Carried unanimously

Dr. Taddeo wished all a happy Holiday Season.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.